

## *A Majority of Americans Would Vote for a Climate Candidate* *Climate as a Voting Issue, Part Two*

The wrath of Hurricane Florence, with the highest ever rainfall on the east coast, is still unfolding, and climate advocates are rightly pointing out that [climate change exacerbated the storm](#). Americans are experiencing climate change more dramatically and frequently, but is it influencing attitudes going into the November election? Democrats hope to flip the House, Republicans want to maintain it. Could either party embrace climate as an issue to garner support?

ecoAmerica set out to determine these answers in their 2-part survey, **Climate as a Voting Issue**. To review, key findings from part one of ecoAmerica’s survey, [“90% of Americans Think Dems and Reps Should Work Together on Climate,”](#) were:

- a majority of Americans (62%) *disapprove* of the Trump administration’s rollback of environmental protections, including lowering fuel economy standards, opening offshore drilling, and exiting the Paris Climate Agreement;
- nearly three quarters (73%) believe that these rollbacks benefit corporations, and;
- nearly two thirds of Americans (63%) report feeling more concerned about climate change now, than in previous elections.

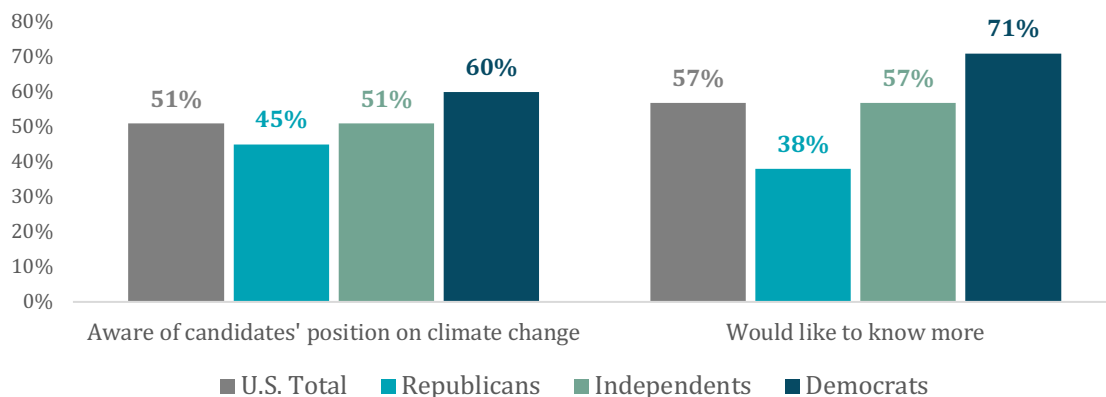
As part two of the survey, the **October 2018 American Climate Perspective Survey** shows that, contrary to [recent reports](#), climate *is* a voting issue. While climate change might not be the top issue for voters, a vast majority would support a candidate who wants climate solutions.

### Some Reps are avoiding climate change, most Inds and Dems want to know more

The survey found that less than half (45%) of Republicans say they are aware of candidates’ positions on climate change, and only 38% say they would like to know more\* (vs. 51% and 57% nationally, respectively). 45% of Republicans *do not want to know more* about candidates’ positions on the issue. However, 60% of Democrats and 51% of Independents are aware of their candidates’ position on climate change, and 71% and 57% would like to know more.

**For the upcoming election, how aware are you of various candidates’ position on climate change? Would you like to know more about political candidates’ position on climate change?**

849 respondent(s) total nationally, % “Aware” and “Yes”

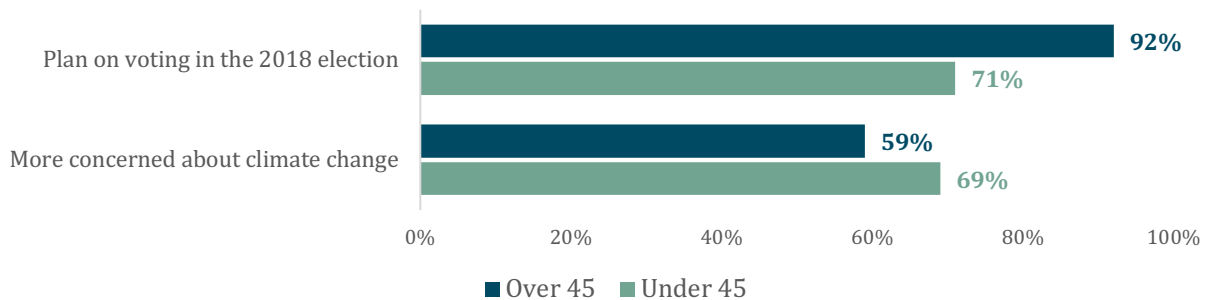


## Adults under 45 are more concerned about climate, but more of their votes are needed

While 71% of people Under 45 indicate they plan to vote in the upcoming 2018 elections, it is a notable 21-point difference less than the 92% of people Over 45 who plan to do so. Under 45 voters are far more concerned about climate change than in previous elections with 69% reporting they are more concerned vs. 59% of Over 45. In total, 82% of Americans report they are planning to vote in November 2018, and nearly two-thirds (63%) say they are more concerned about climate change than in previous elections. The climate movement would benefit from voter turnout campaigns targeting Millennials/Adults under 45.

### Do you plan to vote in the upcoming 2018 elections? Going into the 2018 election, are you more or less concerned about climate change compared to previous elections?

849 respondent(s) total nationally, % Total “Yes”, “A lot more concerned and A little more concerned”

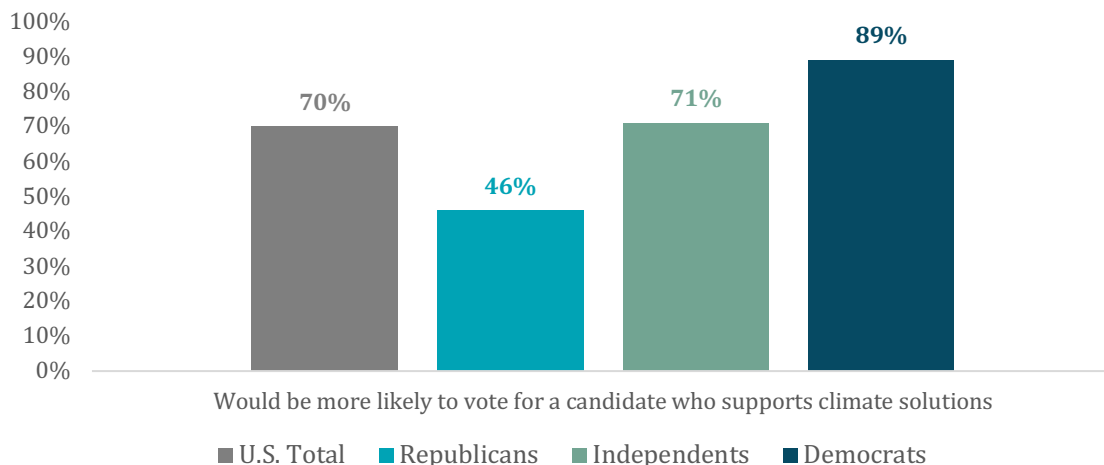


## The vote stands with climate candidates

ecoAmerica’s survey found that a total of **70% of American voters would likely vote for a candidate who supports climate solutions**. A vast majority (89%) of Democrats reported this, as well as a majority (71%) of Independents\*\*. And, even a surprising **46% of Republicans say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports climate solutions**.

### How likely would you be to vote for a candidate who supports climate change solutions?

849 respondent(s) total nationally, % Total “Much more likely and Somewhat more likely”



**\* Communication is key to engaging Republicans on climate.** [A recent study](#) from UC Berkeley finds that conservatives can be moved toward climate advocacy with messaging that appeals to values of purity, patriotism, and reverence for a higher authority. [ecoAmerica](#) offers related research, and incorporate the findings into tested, climate communication guidance.

**\*\* Independents show potential to be one of the most influential climate constituencies in 2018 - 2020.** They account for the largest voting bloc at [43%](#) of the American public, 65% are more concerned about climate than in past elections, 64% disapprove of the recent environmental rollbacks, and 71% say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate that supports climate solutions.

**Full data is available in the accompanying [toplines](#).**

## Methodology

ecoAmerica designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 using Survey Monkey. The survey yielded a total of 849 adult responses. The sample was drawn from an online panel and the respondents were screened to ensure that they were over the age of 18. The margin of error for the sample is +/-3.5%. In interpreting the survey results, it is important to note that all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error. Thus, the results of a survey may differ from the results that would be obtained if the entire population was interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of the responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of the respondents in a sample of 802 respondents answered, "Yes" to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage would fall within 3.5 points, or range from 46.5% to 53.5%.

## Special Thanks

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## Suggested Citation

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